

THE WORD OF GOD, ... EFFECTUALLY WORKETH ...

1 Thessalonians 2:13

1 Th 2:13 Timothy comes with good report.

Lifts Paul's spirit

Their attitude toward Word.

1. Receptive

Received: to receive near, open

A. External *which ye heard of us*

Listened with interest and respect

To accept from another

B. Internal: ... *received*... welcomed

First word for *receive* --hearing ear

Second word for *receive*--hearing heart

They sincerely, with their ears and in their hearts, welcomed the Word of God.

Would you rather have Bible than food? Job 23:12; Mt 4:4; Heb. 5:11-14; Psa 119:103

Would you rather have Word than money? Psa 119:14, 72, 127, 162

Externally and internally receptive to Word

Loves to hear Word preached.

Take notes

Weighs words very careful in spirit.

Love to be challenged by friends with Word.

Be careful about letting other things crowd in on opportunities to hear Word of God taught and preached.

Would you rather have God's Word than sleep?

Psa 119:148 ... *night watches*

David gave up sleep 3 times/night to spend time in Word.

2. Discerning ... *but as it is in truth*...

Authority is Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, and Bible, the written word of God.

Beware of careless hearing Luke 8:18 2 Tim 4:3-4

Dull of hearing--Heb 5:11

A generation where solid, confrontational, Biblical preaching is thrown out the window and replaced with entertainment.

False prophet: Ezek 13:1-6; Matt 7:22-23

... *but as it is in truth*. Real thing. Genuine.

Bible a unique book:

It is a library of 66 books, written by over 35 authors, in a time period of approximately 1,500 years, on three continents. The authors of the Bible come from a cross-section of humanity: Educated and uneducated, kings, fishermen, public officials, farmers, teachers, and physicians.

It covers several subjects: Religion, history, law, science, poetry, drama, biography, and prophecy.

Its various parts are as harmoniously united as the parts that make up the human body.

Inspired: 2 Tim 3:16-17

For 35 authors, with such varied backgrounds, to write on so many subjects over a period of approximately 1,500-1,800 years in absolute harmony, is a mathematical impossibility. It could not happen! Then how do we account for the Bible? The only adequate explanation is: Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
Chr. Life N.T.

Written by men of God who were moved along by Holy Spirit 2 Pet 1:20 -21

It is pure, holy, and perfect Psa 19:7-9

Wiersbe: *The way a Christian treats his Bible shows how he regards Jesus Christ.*

Jesus is living Word: John 1:1, 14

3. Changed ... *effectually*... Actively, efficiently, effectively

Word of God bearing fruit in their lives.

Word of God having impact?

Devouring flame: Jer 5:14

Breaker of rocks: Jer 23:29

Saving force: Rom 1:16

Offensive weapon: Eph 6:17

Powerful tool: Heb 4:12

Purifier of life: Psa 119:9; John 15:3; 17:17 Eph 5:26 1 Pet 1:22

Believers committed to obeying Word: James 1:22 -25; Isa 55:11

Woodrow Wilson *I ask every man and woman... that from this day on they will realize that part of the destiny of America lies in their daily perusal of this great book.*

Roger Johnson: *All too often the biblical passage read to the congregation resembles the national anthem played at sporting events. It gets things started but it is not referred to again during the lesson.*

Stephen Olford *The authority behind preaching resides not in the preacher but in the biblical texts.*

J.I. Packer: *Certainty about the great issues of the Christian faith and conduct is lacking all along the line. The outside observer sees us staggering on from gimmick to gimmick and stunt to stunt like so many drunks in a fog, not knowing at all where we are or which way we should be going. Preaching is hazy; heads are muddled; hearts fret; doubts drain strength; uncertainty paralyzes action.... ... The real truth is that we have grieved the Spirit... we stand under divine judgment. For two generations our churches have suffered from a famine of hearing the words of the Lord." That's a tragic truth.*

So What?

1. Receptive to the Word?
2. Discerning about the Word?
3. Changed by the Word?